Grain Bank schemes in Tribal Areas

2255. Dr. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister ol TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Grain Bank Schemes arc being implemented in all tribal areas to provide food security; and

(b) if so, how the schemes would improve the conditons of rural poor to check their migration ?

THE MINISTER OFTRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIJUALORAM) : (a)and(b) A Central Sector Scheme for setting up of village grain banks in tribal villages was launched in 1996-97 in selected areas out of the areas identified by Central Planning Committee (CPC) as a preventive measures against death of tribal people by providing a safe-guard against fall in nutritional standards. The scheme provides that villagers in identified areas can form a committee and set up grain banks in villages. This Ministry provides one time 100% grant for setting up grain banks (s> 100 Kg of locally consumed food grains per family. The members can borrow from this bank in time of need and repay in time after harvest and getting income as wages. Under the schemes, funds arc released to the State Governments through Tribal Cooperative marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED). The CPC has identified 370 blocks in 52 districts in 13 States, which are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Manipur. Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tripura and Maharashtra. However, the list is indicative and the State Governments can select villages/blocks outside these areas, if considered necessary. The scheme is not specifically meant for arresting the migration of rural poor. However, the objcclives of the scheme may help to check their migration by providing a safeguard against fall in nutritional standards. Under the scheme, TRIFED has released the following amounts to the State Governments :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount Released
1996-97	146.4
1997-98	156.37
1998-99	14.72
1999-2000	100.00
2000-01	324.89